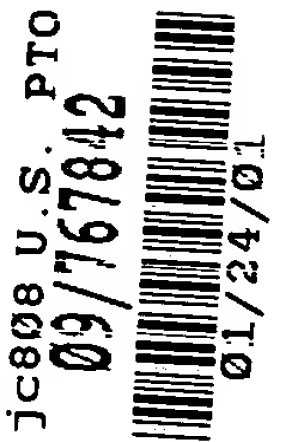


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:)
Toshiyuki WAIDA, et al.)
Application No.: NEW)
Filed: January 23, 2001)
For: PAYMENT FORM DISCRIMINATION)
METHOD AND APPARATUS)



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR §1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:

- 1a. ☒ Form PTO-1449.
- 1b. ☒ Copies of IDS citations.
- 1c. ☐ An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
- 1d. ☒ English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
- 1e. ☐ Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
- 1f. ☐ List of Copending Applications (ATTACHMENT 1(f), hereto).

2. ☒ In accordance with 37 CFR §1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is:

(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)

- 2a. ☐ satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed English language copy of the PCT International Search Report or the search report

from a counterpart foreign application indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. (See U.S. Patent & Trademark Office's authorization in the Federal Register, Vol. 57, No. 12, January 17, 1992, at page 2031 (Reply to Comment 68).)

- 2b. ☐ set forth in the application.
- 2c. ☒ satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.
- 2d. ☐ enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: January 23, 2001

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James D. Halsey, Jr.
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PRIOR ART INFORMATION LIST

Your Ref:
Our Ref:2000119N01US

| Inventor, Patent Number, Country Author, Title, Name of Document | Issue Date (day/month/year) | Concise Explanation of relevance (indication of page, column, line, figure of relevant portion) |
|---|--|--|
| Japanese Patent Publication No. 2-72752 | 13/03/1990 | This is corresponding to EP354703B1. |
| Japanese Patent Publication No. 11-88634 | 30/03/1999 | English abstract is attached |
| Japanese Patent Publication No. 59-47641 | 17/03/1984 | English abstract is attached |
| Japanese Patent Publication No. 4-316176 | 06/11/1992 | English abstract is attached |

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

1081.1104/JDH

APPLICATION NO.

NEW

LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR

Toshiyuki WAIDA, et al.

FILING DATE

January 23, 2001

GROUP ART UNIT

Not Yet Assigned

1c800 U.S. PTO
09/767842

01/24/01

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | FILING DATE |
|----------------------|----|-----------------|------|------|-------|---------------|----------------|
| | AA | | | | | | |
| | AB | | | | | | |
| | AC | | | | | | |
| | AD | | | | | | |
| | AE | | | | | | |
| | AF | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | DOCUMENT NO. | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUB- CLASS | TRANSLATION YES NO | |
|--|----|-----------------|---------|---------|-------|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| | AG | 2-72752 | 3/13/90 | Japan | | | | X |
| | AH | EP0354703B1 | 2/14/90 | EPO | | | | |
| | AI | 11-88634 | 3/30/99 | Japan | | | X | |
| | AJ | 59-47641 | 3/17/84 | Japan | | | X | |
| | AK | 4-316176 | 11/6/92 | Japan | | | X | |
| | AL | | | | | | | |

OTHER REFERENCES *(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

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| | AM | |
| | AN | |
| | AO | |

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.